

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Export of salt is permitted under OGL. The Government of India is, however, not directly engaged in its export.

(c) and (d) The Government of Gujarat has been periodically increasing the wages of salt labourers keeping in view the rise in the living index as per the provisions of Minimum Wages Act. The daily wages have been revised every six monthly as under:

From 01.10.1997	Rs. 58.50 basic
From 01.04.1998	Rs. 58.50 basic+3.20 D.A.
From 01.10.1998	Rs. 58.50 basic+5.60 D.A.
From 01.04.1999	Rs. 58.50 basic+12.50 D.A.
From 01.10.1999	Rs. 58.50 basic+14.60 D.A.
From 01.04.2000	Rs. 58.50 basic+16.80 D.A.

(e) Do not arise, in view of answer at (c) and (d) above.

(f) Financial assistance is provided by the Government for various labour welfare amenities, such as construction of rest shelters, providing drinking water facilities, organising health camps, etc. for the benefit of the labourers engaged in the salt industry.

Rate of Inflation

2358. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 5185 given in the Rajya Sabha on 15th May, 2000 and state:

(a) whether the comparative figures in the rate of inflation for the whole and the new series are obtained only on the basis of change of base year or the impact of additionalty of the commodity basket and change in the relative weightage of the commodity groups have also being taken into consideration; and

(b) if so, the details of the different rates of inflation calculated

under the old and the new series for week starting 1st April, 2000 up to the week ending 15th July, 2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) The variation in the figures of rates of inflation in the new Wholesale Price Index (WPI) Number Series (Base: 1993-94) and the old WPI series (Base: 1981-82) is due to the combined impact of change in the base year, addition/deletion of the items in the commodity basket and changes in the weighting diagram.

(b) With the introduction of new Wholesale Price Index (WPI) Series (base: 1993-94) with effect from week ending 01.4.2000, the old WPI series (base: 1981-82) was discontinued and as such index and inflation rates are not compiled for this series. The relevant rates of inflation as per new WPI series (base: 1993-94) for the week ending from 01.4.2000 till 15.7.2000 are as follows:

Week ending	Rate of Inflation (percentage)	Week ending	Rate of Inflation (percentage)
01.04.2000	6.75	03.06.2000	6.43 (P)
08.04.2000	6.75	10.06.2000	6.21 (P)
15.04.2000	6.54	17.06.2000	6.28 (P)
22.04.2000	6.31	24.06.2000	6.20 (P)
29.04.2000	6.01	01.07.2000	5.92 (P)
06.05.2000	6.24	08.07.2000	5.92 (P)
13.05.2000	6.38	15.07.2000	6.12 (P)
20.05.2000	6.37		
27.05.2000	6.59		

(P) Provisional